

Welcome to the August 2009 issue of the Forth Replacement Crossing newsletter. In this issue you will find information on the Feedback & Outcomes Report from the January 2009 public information exhibitions (page 1), the recently published Guide to Compulsory Purchase, Compensation and Parliamentary Procedures (page 2), the start of the procurement process (page 2), details of community information displays planned for August 2009 (page 3) and information about construction compounds for the crossing (page 4).

Report of exhibitions published

A report detailing how local views on the Forth Replacement Crossing project have helped shape its development was published in June.

The Public Information Exhibitions – Feedback & Outcomes Report documents the feedback received following the exhibitions held for communities both north and south of the Firth of Forth in January this year.

The exhibitions – which were held in 12 locations over 12 days – were attended by more than 2,200 people and more than 200 responses were received by Transport Scotland. The report explains how these have been, or continue to be, taken into account by the project team.

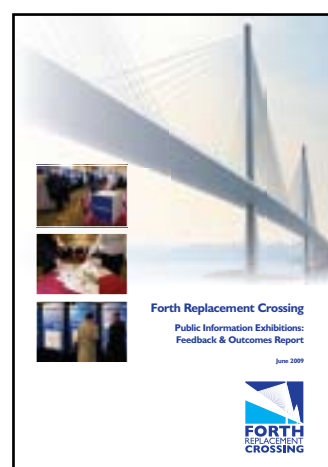
John Howison, Forth Replacement Crossing project director, said, “It is simply fundamental to the project’s success that we regularly meet with, inform and seek feedback from affected communities and wider groups to ensure the final project has the right design, and impact on people and businesses is kept to the minimum possible.

“This report shows how we have put our public engagement programme into practice and taken on board views from the local communities in the design of the scheme, making significant changes to the project in the South and North Queensferry areas for example.

“I would like to repeat my thanks to everyone who attended the exhibitions in January and especially those who took the time to give us their feedback and comments.”

Since the exhibitions Transport Scotland has continued to meet with communities and in June and July held discussions with local residents, community councils and other affected parties about the construction phase and landscaping and mitigation. Feedback from these sessions has helped with the development of landscaping and mitigation plans and details of construction. This information will go on display for the community at large in August. (See page 3 for details)

The Feedback & Outcomes Report is available on the project website www.forthreplacementcrossing.info and at community information points at local libraries in the vicinity of the crossing.



Compulsory purchase, compensation and objection process explained

Transport Scotland has published a guide to provide homeowners, businesses and landowners with information about the compulsory purchase, compensation and objection process for the Forth Replacement Crossing.

It provides those living close to the proposed new bridge information on compensation they may be entitled to during construction or once the crossing and connecting roads are open, and compulsory purchase arrangements. It also explains how the Bill promoting the project will progress through Parliament.

The guide, entitled Forth Replacement Crossing – Guidance on the Parliamentary Process, Compulsory Purchase Process and Compensation, has been posted to landowners and subscribers and is available on the project website, in libraries and on request from Transport Scotland.

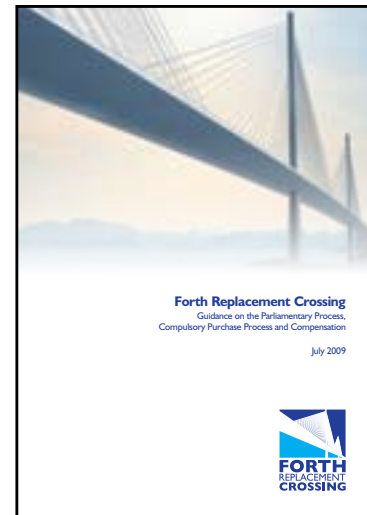
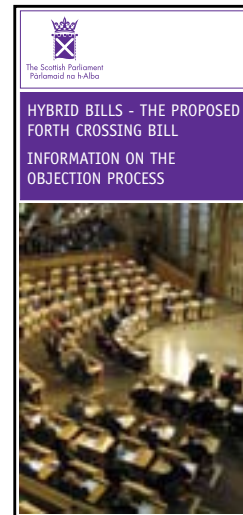
The compulsory purchase and compensation process has been adapted from existing guidance which applies to major road and bridge construction projects.

Lawrence Shackman, project manager for the Forth Replacement Crossing, said: "Over the last 18 months, the Forth Replacement Crossing team has been working hard to develop and refine the scheme, taking on board issues raised through consultations with residents, landowners and community groups. Wherever possible, the scheme has been adjusted to reduce the impacts on people, property and the environment.

"This period of consultation will be drawing to a close towards the end of the summer and the guidance which has been published is to give those people affected by the scheme an early indication of their statutory rights, the compensation that may be available to them and the channels they can use to raise objections."

The Forth Replacement Crossing is being promoted through a hybrid bill in the Scottish Parliament, the first project to be promoted in this way in Scotland. A new objection process for the Bill has been developed by the Scottish Parliament for those who wish to object to the proposed scheme. This includes a 60-day objection period and three-stage Parliamentary process to scrutinise the details of the Bill, which is expected to be lodged in November.

The Transport Scotland guide provides an overview of this process and a separate leaflet has also been published by the Scottish Parliament. Entitled Hybrid Bills – the Proposed Forth Crossing Bill, this leaflet is available on the Scottish Parliament website, in libraries and in the Scottish Parliament.



Procurement gets underway

The process of identifying the contractor who will build the Forth Replacement Crossing is now under way. A contract notice inviting bidders for the main crossing and connecting roads was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) at the end of June.

The first stage of the process involves identifying a shortlist of bidders who will participate in the tender competition starting at the end of 2009.

For the purposes of procurement, the project is being divided into three separate contracts. The main contract includes:

- The cable-stayed bridge
- The trunk road connections north and south of the bridge
- An Intelligent Transport System (ITS) over the length of the bridge and new connecting roads

A further procurement exercise will be undertaken later for two separate, smaller contracts on the scheme but which will be delivered early in the project programme; the first for the upgrading of Junction 1A on the M9 and including the provision of ITS on the

M9 Spur from Scotstoun Junction to Newbridge; the second for the provision of ITS in Fife from Admiralty Junction to Halbeath.

The Forth Replacement Crossing is the biggest single element of the Scottish Government's investment in Scotland's road and rail networks, which will promote sustainable economic growth and support hundreds of construction jobs over the next decade. Commenting on the start of procurement, Scottish Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson said:

"I am delighted that the Forth Replacement Crossing continues to make progress towards delivery. The Scottish Government is absolutely clear that sustainable economic growth must be promoted in these difficult financial times. Against the backdrop of the global economic downturn, we are driving forward the largest transport investment programme Scotland has ever seen with a number of vital projects, of which the FRC is the biggest.

"I am looking to the construction industry to be enthusiastic about the chance to build a project which is not only vital for the economy and communities of Scotland but which will join the existing two Forth bridges as part of an internationally recognised iconic landmark."

August Information Displays

Transport Scotland is placing a series of community information displays in the vicinity of the crossing in August to show the latest landscaping and mitigation plans for the project.

The displays, which will be placed mainly in local libraries and community centres, will give the wider community the opportunity to study the plans which have been developed since the exhibitions held in January. These show the proposed locations of bunds, noise barriers, planting and other mitigation measures and were discussed with residents and community councils in June and July.

Other important information that will be made available through the displays includes guidance on the compulsory purchase, compensation and parliamentary process and information about the construction of the project.

Details of the displays will be advertised in local press and the content of the displays will also be available on the project website for those who are unable to attend.

Project manager, Lawrence Shackman, explains, "We are now entering the final design stages of the project, prior to putting forward our final proposals for the Parliamentary Bill in November. Since January we have been developing the mitigation and landscaping proposals, taking on board views received through the exhibitions and meetings held with residents over the summer. In November we will be lodging our final proposals with Parliament and staging larger exhibitions at that time."

The displays will be available to view over a two-week period at the times and locations shown below:

Display locations and opening hours

Queensferry Hotel, North Queensferry

12th – 26th August
Monday – Sunday 9.00am – 9.00 pm

Inverkeithing Civic Centre, Inverkeithing

12th – 26th August
Monday and Thursday 9.00am - 7.00pm
Tuesday and Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Wednesday and Saturday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Carnegie Library, Dunfermline

12th – 26th August
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am – 7.00pm
Wednesday and Saturday 9.30am – 5pm

Rosyth Library, Rosyth

12th – 26th August
Monday and Thursday 9.00am - 7.00pm
Tuesday and Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Wednesday and Saturday 9.00am - 12.30pm

South Queensferry Library, South Queensferry

12th – 26th August
Monday and Wednesday 1.00pm - 8.00pm.
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Kirkliston Community Centre

12th – 26th August
Monday – Thursday 9.30am – 1.00pm and 6.30pm – 9.00pm
Friday 9.30am – 1.00pm

Newton Community Centre, Newton

17th – 28th August
Monday and Wednesday 10.00am – 12 noon and 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Tuesday and Thursday 2.00pm – 4.00pm and 7.00pm – 9.00pm



Construction Compounds

One of the key developments for the project in recent months has been to draw up plans for the construction of the project, identify suitable construction locations and start work on a Code of Construction Practice.

In June and July the team met residents and community councils to outline the current preferred site of construction compounds. Although the majority of the construction for the crossing will take place from barges in the estuary, three construction compounds will be required at various points around the scheme to facilitate construction of the bridge and connecting road network. The current preferred site for the main construction compound is at Echline in South Queensferry, with smaller compounds at Ferrytoll in North Queensferry and on the north-west side of M9 Junction 1a near Kirkliston.

As a result of the consultation with South Queensferry residents, the Forth Replacement Crossing team is investigating an alternative location for the main compound to the west of the proposed connecting road and further away from the main residential areas.

Lawrence Shackman, Transport Scotland's project manager for the Forth Replacement Crossing explains, "Echline Field was selected as the preferred site for the main construction compound as it provides the best access to the foreshore and viaduct on the south side and is sufficiently large to allow the main construction facilities and haul road to be located along the western edge of the field, furthest away from residential properties. The land immediately adjacent to the housing estates would be landscaped with a noise-reducing bund and barrier and tree planting to screen the compound from view. The field also has the advantage of already being owned by the Scottish Ministers which means that we would not be required to compulsorily purchase another landowner's property."

"However, we understand the concerns that were expressed by residents at our recent meetings and are currently reviewing whether a site on the west side of the connecting road may provide a viable alternative. We will report back to residents as soon as possible when this work is complete."

"A Code of Construction Practice covering all compounds and all construction activities is currently being drawn up in consultation with local authorities and relevant community councils to ensure that the project is built with due regard for residents and communities."



Information on the construction compounds will be available at the community information displays in August. The map above shows the approximate locations of the three currently proposed construction compounds.

Contacting the Forth Replacement Crossing

For more information about the Forth Replacement Crossing please contact the Transport Scotland team on:

Phone: 0141 272 7578

Email: frcenquiries@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk

Web: www.forthreplacementcrossing.info

You can also sign up to our regular e-newsletter on the website to receive updates on the project by email.

